

Bundle 7-19

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* "THE LAST OF THE DUDLEYS" *
*
* Property of Johnnie Speer *
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THE LAST OF THE DUDLEY'S

CAST

COLONEL DUDLEY CHARACTER
EEMER GERRY HEAVY
HARRY WICKS LEAD
URIAH BLACK FACE COMEDY

JOSEPHINE LEAD
ANN CAROLINE BLACK FACE COMEDY

SETTING

The exterior of Colonel Dudley's home and Plantation.
The house is on the L. Small table and chairs outside ~~house~~.

PROPS

Mint Jubap in glass
Box of cigars
Table and two chairs
Loaded letter
Medicine glass
Packet of poison
One small razor
One big razor
Pair of dice
Plenty of stage money

THE LAST OF THE DUDLEYS

COLONEL DUDLEY

(CALL INTO HOUSE) Aunty Caroline. Aunty Caroline! I declare it takes you a long time to fix my mint julep.

CAROLINE

(ENTERS WITH MINT JULEP FROM HOUSE) Here I is with it, Colonel ~~Mack~~ Dudley. Ah's jestpowerful slow today fro some reason or other.

COLONEL DUDLEY

Well, hand me my cigar and let me get a good smoke on it before that bloomin' doctor comes and takes them all away from me. Caroline, I've been missing quite a few cigars out of my box lately? Have you been smoking them again?

CAROLINE

No suh! Ah jest smokes the butts, Colonel, ah just smokes the butts. (HANDS HIM CIGAR AND LIGHTS IT FOR HIM) Too bad yo' all can't smoke much of your cigars at one time, but de doctor he done know his business I guess.

COLONEL

He knows then as well as anybody could expect a doctor to know them. My cousin Elmer Gerry is a mighty ~~splendid~~ physician, and he ought to know what is best for me. But I don't seem to be getting any better. Sometimes I ~~think~~ I'll chuck it all---tell him I'll smoke when I like--eat when I like and do what I like.

CAROLINE

He sez it would kill yo' if yo' did. He also said for you not to get angered or flare up in the air, cause yo' heart am gonna jest stop all of a sudden and den yo' won't be no more, and your poor daughter Josephine would jest plum cry out her eyes.

COLONEL

So she would. So she would. I dread to think of having to leave this old world and my little daughter behind in it. It's all right for a man to get along, but a girl it's different.

CAROLINE

Don't worry, ~~mass~~ don't worry. ' cause jest as long as dere is any breath in dis old black nigger's body she gonna watch after Josephine and see that no harm comes to her.

JOSEPHINE

(ENTERS R. LAUGHING AND JOKING WITH ELMER GERRY) Oh, Elmer, you're too fresh. (STOPS SEES COLONEL) Daddy! Are you actually smoking a cigar.

COLONEL

No! No! I---(SLIPS CIGAR TO CAROLINE) Cardlife is smoking it.

JOSEPHINE

Shame on you, you old fabricator. Doctor, what in the world are we ever going to do with him? He will smoke those cigars in spite of the fact that you've warned him.

ELMER

Cousin Dudley, why do you insist upon smoking them when they are not good for your health. Isee you've been drinking another mint juelp too.

COLONEL

Well, Elmer, when you take away a southerners mint julep and his cigar, yo all just as well take a way the breath that he breaths with cause they both mean life to him. I'm jiggered if I can stop either one of them.

ELMER

I forgive you to have another cigar or julep all week for this. And you you black wretch---don't you dare try to fix him one or I'll--

JOSEPHINE

Elmer, that's no way to talk to Aunt Caroline.

ELMER

Well, I'm giving her orders.

CAROLINE

Hold on, there, yo' all aint givin' me no orders at all. Listen, Misto Gerry, dat dere is my boss. (POINTS TO COLONEL) I'se his servant and I bows and respects him, but yo or no odder pusson am gonna tell me what to do---and if de Colonel wants a mintjulep I'll fix him a wholedam barrell full of it. Now wid dem few remarks on dis speciflicated subject I'll retire to the kitchen, and wash my hands. Amen! (EXITS HOUSE)

ELMER

Black hag! Colonel, I'm telling you, and I mean it. Your condition is really very serious.

COLONEL

Don't tell me I'm going to die.

ELMER

Well, we all have to die some day. Colonel Dudley, you should be thinking of what is to become of Josephine, if anything should happen.

COLONEL

When I die, I will leave my daughter an estate that is reputed one of wealthiest in the south. Josephine, will never need to worry over money or--

JOSEPHINE

Oh let's not talk about it, daddy. I don't like to think about anything like that at all. If you two can't change the conversation I'm going into the house. (EXITS INTO HOUSE)

ELMER

Colonel I want to marry your daughter. I think that she needs me to look after her.

COLONEL

What does she think?

ELMER

I think she looks with favor upon me.

COLONEL

Then its for you two to settle the question. I'm going in the house ---and---well get a drink of water---with just a touch of mint. (EXITS HOUSE)

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ELMER
The old fool! I wouldn't care how many of those juleps and cigars he smoked if I could get his daughter to marry me. In fact, I wish he'd kick the bucket. Then I could soon get my hands on this estate and his money. Well, I guess I'll go into the house and press my suit for her hand. (STARTS INTO HOUSE. BUMPS INTO CAROLINE) You old fool why don't you look where your going.

CAROLINE
Why don't you go where you're looking.

ELMER
I'll be glad when I can get away from this southern country where every turn a man makes he runs into a bunch of black niggers. I wish I knew where I could go where I wouldn't find any coons like you?

CAROLINE
Does you all want to know where you can go and not find any coons like me?

ELMER
Yes. Where?

CAROLINE
You can go to hell!

**** NUMBER ONE ****

HARRY
(ENTERS R. WITHK) Well, come on, Uriah, get a move on you. I wonder who lives here any way? Hurry up! Drag that drunk in here. Come on.

URIAH
Yessa boss, ah's comin', but ah's just so doggoned weak I can't make it. (ENTERS R. CARRIES TRUNK ON PULLS IT UP AND SETS DOWN ON IT) Boy man! Believe me I'm worn down to a nub. Boss, when we all gonna eat again?

HARRY
Eat. Eat that's all you think of. Listen, didn't I tell you that when I got to ~~Hogsdale~~ Memphis we'd eat. We'll have money when we get there.

URIAH
How long is it for we get to Memphis?

HARRY
Well, I figure we ought to be there in another week.

URIAH
Week? Man I'm as weak as I'll ever get and still live. Ah aint et for so long that I forgot which end the food goes in.

HARRY
Nonsense! Didn't I give you a bean sandwich last week, and tell you to save it for a rainy day.

URIAH
And didn't it rain the next day?

HARRY
Well, cheer up, when we get to Memphis, I know a fellow who's got a good medicine show and we'll go right to work. U riah, I'm going to put you some where in this world?

URIAH

Yessah if I stick with you I'll be in my grave. When I done joined your show you told me you was gonna star me, man, you starved me. Why didn't you tell me we was gonna go broke forty miles from now where. All I done is walk and carry this here trunk. Man, I'm hungry. I'm so hungry I could eat the picture of a bean sandwich if I had it.

HARRY

Well, maybe we'll get something to eat here. I'll see.

COLONEL

(ENTERS FROM HOUSE) Well, gentlemen, what do you want here?

HARRY

I beg your pardon sir. We were just passing through here in our Packard and we ran out of gas.

URIAH

Oh listen to that man lie.

HARRY

I thought maybe you could well---give us---give us--

~~HARRY~~ COLONEL

Why I'd be glad to give you some gasoline.

URIAH

Gasoline the devil! Give us something to eat.

HARRY

Shut up. I'll throw you a bone in a minute.

URIAH

Well, be sure there's a little meat on that bone man.

COLONEL

Judging from your servant's remarks, he is hungry. Do you want food, my fellow good man. I'd be glad to have you take dinner with us.

HARRY

Oh that is very nice of you, Colonel, but we really must be going on.

COLONEL

Now don't you think that you could stay and have a little fried chicken ~~some~~ nice mashed potatoes with cream gravy, cheese au-gratin, fruit salad, and demi-tasse.

URIAH

(IN AGONY) Man, please shot yo' face, fo my stomach jumps up and kicks ma brains out.

HARRY

Oh well we might consent to stay if---

JOSEPHINE

(ENTERS FROM HOUSE) Oh, Daddy, dinner is almost ready--- (STOPS) Oh!

HARRY

I think I will stay! Colonel, allow me to introduce myself. I am just traveling through the country for my health.

URIAH

So am I but my health aint ~~be~~ done no good.

COLONEL

What do you do for a living?

HARRY

I---I'ma---

URIAH

He's a show man runs a medicine show---but we can't eat m~~ed~~icine.

HARRY

Shut up! Don't pay any attention to him, Colonel. He's slightly off. I'm a geologist and I write stories too. My name is Wicks. Harry Wicks. (ELMER ENTERS FROM HOUSE)

COLONEL

Welcome to my home, suh. This is my daughter, Miss Josephine.

HARRY

And she's just as beautiful as a rose.

ELMER

Sir, such a remark coming from a comparative stranger is not in good taste.

HARRY

I don't care how it tastes, it's the best looking piece of female work I've seen for a long while.

ELMER

Colonel Dudley, are you going to admit this stranger to your home?

COLONEL

I am, suh. He is hungry, and tired. He is welcome to my southern hospitality until I find him unworthy of it.

HARRY

Say I remember you. (TO ELMER) I saw you in a little town up in the hills. You were with some country girl, and she was hanging on your arms, and you had just come from the ---

ELMER

Sir, you are mistaken. I never saw you in my life, and you never saw me.

HARRY

Well, maybe it was two other fellows. Maybe we had better go, Colonel Dudley. I did not mean to offend any body. I---

CAROLINE

(OFF STAGE IN HOUSE) Massa Cunnell. Missy Josephine. Dinner am gettin cold. Aint you comin' in? (APPEARS AT DOOR)

URIAH

Hot dog. Oh boss, look what I sees. Let's stay boss. I see where I'm gonna eat now. Howdy, black baby.

CAROLINE

Well, of all the fresh things! That lump of charcoal calling me black. Don't you go to referrin' to ma complexion man or I'

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COLONEL

Here! Here! Caroline, don't start no rough house.

CAROLINE

Ah'll clean mayself a black spasnm in a minute. Dat's a Northern nigger massa, look at him standin' there with his hat on in the presence of white folks. (PULLS OFF URIAH'S CAP) Take dat hat off you? Jig you! Yo am in the scuhhnow and white fokks is white folks, and niggers is niggers.

URIAH

Go on leave me alone now. (HOLDS ON TO CAP)

CAROLINE

No good for nothing, where you all come from?

URIAH

I come from Detroit Michigan where they make Fords.

CAROLINE

Well, you'se down in Tennessee now where they makes corpses out of niggahs like you. See.

COLONEL

Caroline! Caroline! You take this fellow around to the back and feed him. Now, come, Mr. Wicks., and we'll have dinner. (THEY EXIT INTO HOUSE)

CAROLINE

(CATCHING URIAH AS HE STARTS TO GO INTO THE HOUSE) Come here, niggah, where yo' think yo is goin'?

URIAH

I'se goin' in to eat dinner.

CAROLINE

Yo' eats in the kitchen, northern. Lord God ah done sho' got to make yo' over ef you stays here. Man, dey'll jast naturallymake buzzard meat out of you. You come with me I'll feed you.

URIAH

All right, baby, where you goes I'll follow.

CAROLINE

(GIDDY) Don't you all get me worked up now. Yo Northern niggers sho is hell on wheels. Is you married?

URIAH

Yes, but I aint workin' at it right now.

CAROLINE

Well, come on with me, and I'll feed you some chicken. What kinda meat you like. White meat or dark meat.

URIAH

Dark meat, baby, dark meat with plenty of gravy! (THEY EXIT)

***** NUMBER TWO *****

HARRY

(ENTERS WITH URIAH) Listen, Uriah, we're going to stay right here for

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awhile. The old Colonel has found out that I went to school once and that I've got an education so he is going to let me do some secretarial work for him. Isn't that great now I can be near his daughter.

URIAH

Yes sah! And I can be near that little black devil dat works here.

HARRY

I sure think she's a dandy girl---such a lovely face---such wonderful contour.

URIAH

Contour! Ah never got that far on mine yet.

HARRY

Sap! I really think I've got a chance with this girl, that is if that doctor who's treating the old Colonel don't put in too many knocks.

URIAH

Well, I guess I'll go hunt up that colored female and see what's up. Maybe she's got somethin' good cookin' in the kitchen. (EXITS BEHIND HOUSE)

JOSEPHINE

(ENTERS FROM HOUSE) Oh hello, Mr. Wicks. How are you today? I was just going out to hunt some wild roses. Do you wish to come along?

HARRY

I'll say I do. Say did you know that I'm going to get to stay here for some time and do some work for your father. I--I'm sure glad I got the job.

JOSEPHINE

So am I. We all like you that is with the exception of--

HARRY

That Doctor---say waht does he mean around here any way?

JOSEPHINE

Well, he is my father's second cousin, and wather is leaving him quite a sum in his will. For the past few years father hasn't been feeling so well and so Mr. Gerry has been doctoring him.

HARRY

If your father died, Mr. Gerry would get quite a sum of money, eh--- Of course Mr. Gerry is aware that he will get this money, sin't he?

JOSEPHINE

Why of course why do you ask this?

HARRY

Oh nothing I was just thinking!

JOSEPHINE

(LAUGHS) Well, don't do that. It isn't good for you. But come on. (STARTS)

ELMER

(ENTERS HOUSE) I say Josephine, where are you going?

JOSEPHINE

Out to pick some wild roses?

Sure. Want to join us?

ELMER

No thanks. And it might be well for you to be informed that Miss Josephine is going to marry me, and--

JOSEPHINE

Wait a minute, Mr. Gerry. Miss Josephine hasn't promised you even though you have asked her a thousand times.

ELMER

Well, I mean everything for your own good, and I don't think you show good taste in picking out this stranger to go with.

JOSEPHINE

Since when have you taken over the right to tell me what to do? I'll decide whether my actions are in good taste or not. I'll say this much, you've certainly proved yourself the other side of a gentleman in the inhospitable manner which you have treated Mr. Wicks here. All I can say is that I like him, and we are going to go pick some wild roses. That's about as wild a time as we can have right now. Come! (EXITS R.)

HARRY

I guess that'll hold you for a while won't it? (LAUGHS AND EXITS R.)

ELMER

The damned intruder! Before he came here I had a half way chance at Miss Josephine now it's gone. Confound it! If I don't get some money soon I am going to have to go to ~~in a~~ poor house. I just received a letter from a ~~dear~~ friend of mine in Chicago. (LOOKS ABOUT) No one is looking. I'll see what he has to offer me. (OPENS READS) "Dear friend Elmer, you will find enclosed a packet containing some poison powder which you can place in the old Colonel's medicine each day. This will gradually work on his heart until he will just drop off some day suddenly. The poison could never be discovered. Just give it to him every day. (URIAH LISTENS FROM BEHIND HOUSE) (SETS LETTER DOWN ON TABLE LOOKS AT PACKET) By jove! That's clever! It's murder, but I can never be caught, and besides I've got to have money. (PUTS PACKET IN POCKET) I'll put that there and give it to the Colonel at once. (URIAH STEALS THE LETTER AND EXITS) Now I must destroy this letter. (TURNS TO FIND IT) Why it's gone! Great Scott! The wind must have blown it away. I must get it before someone finds out about this. (EXITS R.)

URIAH

I don't know what this letter all means cause I can't read, but I'm gonna keep it and give it to ~~xxxxxx~~ Mr. Harry. He'll find out.

CAROLINE

(ENTERS FROM HOUSE) What yo' all doin', black ape? Loafin'? Ef yo' is yo' can jest get yo'self in the kitchen and help me. Lawd yo' sho' is shiftless! Ef you wasn't so lazy I'd done take you to a party but yo's too lazy to get yo' shoes shined even.

URIAH

No I aint. I sure would like to go to a party. Where am dey goin' to be one?

CAROLINE

Well, de colored fire-men am goin' to have one. The fire-men am goin' to give a ball.

URIAH

I never knew firemen had balls?

CAROLINE

Lawdy yo' sho. is igamus, niggah. Of course dey does. Dey's bonna be plenty of fire and hose at that ball too. But dat remark you done made proves conclusively that your education has been sadly neglected. If yo all had any you would never be guilty of subh a brainless remark. In fact, I doubts if you has any education at all even if you does come from the North.

URIAH

I bet I know twice as less as you do.

CAROLINE

Go on man, ah's edumacated. Does you know anything about Mineraology Phrenology, or Astrology.

URIAH

No, but I sure is there on Boozeology.

CAROLINE

I thought so! Why you poor poached egg. I'll bet yo' don't even know the moon is inhabited.

URIAH

Does you know that the moon is inhabited.

CAROLINE

Why certainly I does. All scientist leads us to believe that not only the moon but the other planets such as Saturn, Venus and Mars are inhabited. There aint no doubt about it.

URIAH

Did you ever see any one dat come from the moon?

CAROLINE

Why of course not, fool. Why do you ask?

URIAH

Well, if you never saw any one dat come from there, then they's a doubt aint they?

CAROLINE

(HANDS ON HIPS) Tell me, you have got brains, haven't you?

URIAH

Sure I has!

CAROLINE

Did you ever see 'em?

URIAH

No.

CAROLINE

Did you ever see any one that did see 'em?

URIAH

No.

CAROLINE

Did you ever see any one else dat ever saw any one else dat did see 'em

No.

CAROLINE

Then they's a doubt, man, they's a doubt! By the way what's your politics?

URIAH

They's a doubt!

CAROLINE

Ah don't doubt it. But what are you supposed to be?

URIAH

Why I'm a Democrat?

CAROLINE

A democrat? And why are you a democrat?

URIAH

Because my father was a democrat. (GETTING EXCITED) My father's father was a democrat, my great grandfather was a democrat, and my great great frandfather was a democrat, and my mother's aunt's sister's great great grandfather was a democrat and --

CAROLINE

(STOPS HIM) Here here! So you are a democrat because your father was a democrat, and your father's father and your great great frandfather was a democrat are you?

URIAH

Sure!

CAROLINE

Yes, but on the other hand suppose your father and grandfather and greatmgrandfather had been a ~~thief~~ horse thief, then what would you be?

URIAH

A Republican!

CAROLINE

(SWATS AT HIM) Aint dat ignorant?

URIAH

(DUCKS AND DROPS DICE ON GROUND) Look out, Midnight. You made me drop something. My ~~gon~~es. (SHAKES THEM)

CAROLINE

What's the~~m~~ things. Star shells?

URIAH

Star shells! Listen at dat ignorance croppin' out all ovah you. Listen ink, ball dem aint star shells. Where was you drugged up at any way? Dem dere is dices?

CAROLINE

Dices?

URIAH

Yes mam, square marbles, galloping dominoes, little lumps of devilness.

CAROLINE

I thought they were star shells what do you use them for?

URIAH

It's a game. Don't you all know anything about playing dice?

CAROLINE

Not a thing. I never did hear of it.

URIAH

Never did hear of African Golf. Hot dog! De angels sent yo' to me. Say has yo' got any money?

CAROLINE

Yes I have a little---why?

URIAH

Well, it takes money to play dis here game. Now de fust thing yo' does is get down on your knees.

CAROLINE

Sounds bad, but go on. (GETS DOWN ON KNEES) Explain it to me.

URIAH

Now dis here game is called shooting craps.

CAROLINE

Shootin' grabs?

URIAH

Not crabs---graps. You don't shoot crabs?

CAROLINE

I've seen some dat was big enough to shoot.

IRIAH

Yo all don't know nothin' about this game do you? (SHE SHAKES HEAD NO) Well, now you see de object am like this --you see dat dese dice hab squares on 'em, and des squares am dots, dat means numbers. Now you roll out de dice and whatever number is on top tells whether you wans or loses. For instances if you throw a three or a four dat makes seven or a five and two dat makes seven, or a six and one which am also so seben you win. But if you rolls out some odder number, like six or eight you has to keep on rolling and make a six or an eight before you makes a seben. And ane if you ~~shes~~ shoot a seben in between dere, den is when you ~~has~~ lost. Now does you understand?

CAROLINE

Dat sounds very simple. When does we start?

URIAH

Right now. Say now are you sure dat you don't know anything about dis here game?

CAROLINE

No--not a thing.

URIAH

All right den I bets you ten dollars. I am yours right down there. (BOTH LAY MONEY DOWN)

Shoot! You're faded.

URIAH

(LOOKS AMAZED MUGS) Wait a second? Are you sure dat you don't know dis game?

CAROLINE

No I never even heard of it before.

URIAH

Well, I don't 'zactly know--but I don't likes de way you all makes dat dere lastest remark. (HE HANDS CAROLINE DICE) You shoots first.

CAROLINE

(BUS. SHE SHAKES THEM THEN ROLLS) Wham!

URIAH

Say jest a minute. Are you all sure dat you don't know anything about dis game?

CAROLINE

Absolutely. Dis am de fust time I ever had a bone in my hand.

URIAH

I think you's lyin'. I think they's slipped plenty of beans to you. Where did you get that wham from?

CAROLINE

Just a little expression of mine, dats all. (BUS. BOTH LOOK AT DICE)

URIAH

Six and one!

CAROLINE

Dat's seven--ah wins, don't I?

URIAH

You win? Nothing else but---shoot again and leave out de wham. (THEY BOTH PLACE MONEY. CAROLINE ROLLS DICE)

CAROLINE

Cack!e Chicken!

URIAH

Three and four!

CAROLINE

That's seven. Den I win again?

URIAH

Youden't see me laughin' do you? (BUS. CAROLINE PICKS UP PART OF THE MONEY AND URIA H PUTS DOWN SOME MORE) Now dere am my ante so go ahead an shoot some more.

CAROLINE

(SHOOTS) Whow! Baby needs a new pair of shoes. (URIAH MUGS)

URIAH

Five and two!

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CAROLINE
Well hep my time another seven. I wins again, don't I. Yo' sho' aint very lucky in your game, am you?

URIAH
Lucky, say if it was rainin' soup, I'd be out there with a fork in my hand instead of a spoon. Listen, back chile, aimm am you quite suren dat you don't know nothin' about dis here game?

CAROLINE
Now see here I can take my affidavit on that.

URIAH
Well, damn if you ain't learnin' fast. (PUTS DONEY DOWN)

CAROLINE
I rather likes dis game. (SHOOTS DICE)

URIAH
(HUGGING DUBIE) You ought to. Woman, I's cleaned.

CAROLINE
Aint you got no money? All right I'll play for your pants.

URIAH
Gonn, you aint gonna make no play for my pants.

CAROLINE
You aint no sport den. Come on! I'll roll em for your pants or my dress?

URIAH
All right, ~~shot~~!

CAROLINE
(ROLLS) Wham! Five and six I wins again---dat makes eleven. Gimme dem pants.

URIAH
You try and get 'em. (CHASE OFF)

**** NUMBER THREE ****

ELMER
(ENTERS FROM HOUSE WITH COLONEL HAS GLASS OF WATER) Now, Colonel, it is time for you to take some more of your ~~medince~~ medince. I'll fix it for you. (EMPTIES A PACKET INTO HIS GLASS AND STIRS IT) There now.

COLONEL
(SITTING DOWN) Ohh that stuff is awful! What is it any way?

ELMER
Oh--er--nothing---that is nothing but what is for your own good. Drink!

COLONEL
(DRINKS AND MAKES FACE) I'd just as well be dead as drink that.

ELMER
Colonel, Dudley, you must think seriously of the time when you are to be called away.

COLONEL

Now don't start digging my grave for me, Elmer.

ELMER

Colonel Dudley, I must speak very plainly. You may not live another year and I think you should see to it that your daughter marries me so that I can protect her.

COLONEL

Well, is it necessary that ~~she~~ ~~she~~ she be protected by you.

ELMER

Yes, now I don't want to have to say what I'm going to, but last night I saw something that would have blackened your daughter's name before the entire country. She and that stranger whom you've hired to work for you are carrying on a terrible affair. He is a man without morals, and I fear that Josephine may find her self plunged into scandal.

COLONEL

(RISING CATCHING HIM BY THE THROAT) Elmer Gerry, what are you trying to say about my daughter's good name? (JOSEPHINE ENTERS FROM HOUSE WITH HARRY)

ELMER

Nothing which I cannot prove. Last night I saw that Mr. Wicks climb up into her bedroom window.

COLONEL

Why you? I'll kill you for this---I'll---I'll (HIS HANDS TREMBLE WITH ANGER)

JOSEPHINE

(RUNNING TO HIM) Father, please don't become excited. Your heart!

COLONEL

Josephine, look this man in the eye and tell him that he lies.

JOSEPHINE

Father---I---I cannot do that. I--

ELMER

You see? Of course she can't deny it. I saw them last night while I was in the garden. She is not to blame Colonel. It is this man. He is without a conscience.

COLONEL

(TO HARRY) Sir, what have you to say for yourself?

HARRY

Colonel, what he says is true. I did climb up to her bedroom window-- but I only lingered long enough to give her rose which she dropped from her hair to me. It was only bit of romance. Scandal was the last thing we had thought of. I love your daughter and I would not do anything to bring disgrace to her. This man is only schemeing for him self. He wants to marry her so that he will get all of your money when you die.

ELMER

You are a liar!

HARRY

And you are a poisoner!

ELMER

What?

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HARRY
You heard me. I said you were a poisoner and a murderer. You've been trying to kill the Colonel off for a long time. Your fiendish plans would have worked by now had I not been lucky enough to have a servant who caught you reading a letter from one of your cohorts. (HAS LETTER)

ELMER
What you have that letter. Give it to me. (SNATCHES FOR IT)

HARRY
Not until Colonel Dudley has read it. (HANDS IT TO HIM) There it is. He has been feeding you a poison in your medicine for the past months. You cannot deny that letter.

COLMER
Well, you haven't got me I'll get away. (RUSHES UP R.)

URIAH
(STOPS HIM R. WITH RAZOR IN HIS HAND) Stand where you is, man. Stand where you is.

ELMER
So you think you have me? Well, there's always a way out and I'll go this. (RUSHES UP TO HOUSE)

CAROLINE
(ENTERS WITH EXTRA BIG RAZOR) Stand back man, stand back, for I slashes yo' from ear to ear.

ELMER
The game is up. I'm trapped.

CAROLINE
Yessah man the game is up. Yo is grapped!

COLONEL
So this is the kind of a monster you are. Elmer Gerry, I should send you to the gallows, but that is too good for you. You're not fit to be thrown to the swine.

URIAH
Let me have him, boss, I want to do a little carving myself.

COLONEL
NO. I only want him out of my sight. If he were no kin to me I would see him done justice by the law, but I can't bear the thought of the blood of my family being tainted in the criminal courts. Elmer Gerry, leave my place and don't ever show your face about here or I'll be forced to shoot you myself.

URIAH
Better go while the goin's good man. (CAROLINE AND HE ARE BOTH CLOSE TO HIM)

ELMER
(TO COLONEL) Can't you call your dogs off. (SHIES AWAY FROM THEM)

HARRY
(LAUGHING) Call them off nothing. Sick 'em, Fido! (CAROLINE AND URIAH BOTH CHASE HIM OFF R. LITTLE CONFUSION AS THEY GO)

COLONEL
Mr. Wicks, I thank you for what you have done, for a few more weeks

more weeks and I might have been a goner with that poison he was z16 giving me.

HARRY

Oh no you wouldn't. I substituted harmless soda for the poison powder he was using.

COLONEL

(LAUGHS) Smart boy! Smart boy! Well, daughter, I guess when the great Maker does finally call me you'll be the last of my family, and you'll recieve all my money.

JOSEPHINE

The money means nothing, daddy. There's something more important than that to me. Can I have him?

COLONEL

You mean this feller? Daughter, if he was twins, I'd let you marry both of 'em.

HARRY

But maybe it wouldn't be right to marry your daughter?

COLONEL

And why not, sir.

HARRY

Well, she's rich and I'm poor.

JOSEPHINE

But, Harry, somebody's got to marry the rich girls, and it might as well be you. (PUTS HAND ON HIM)

HARRY

(EMBRACE HER) Jospehine! (CAROLINE AND URIAH ENTER CARRYING ELMER'S PANTS AND COAT)

COLONEL

What's this? What 's this?

URIAH

These am de remains ob what was once a no good white man. Caroline, you done all won my pants from me, but I aint give 'em to you yet. How about takin' these instead?

CAROLINE

Nothin' doin' I wants your pants. Fork 'em over.

URIAH

Well, listen woman, them pants is all I got. I'll tell you how you can have these pants.

CAROLINE

How?

URIAH

You'll have to take what goes in 'em too?

CAROLINE

Fair enough. Come to my arms, baby. (THEY EMBRACE)

URIAH

Hot dog theres gonna be a hot time in Dixie tonight!